

OPINION 1944

Papilio sylvanus Esper, 1777 (currently known as *Ochlodes sylvanus* or *O. venatus faunus*; Insecta, Lepidoptera): specific name conserved

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Lepidoptera; HESPERIIDAE; LYCAENIDAE; *Augiades sylvanus*; *Ochlodes sylvanus*; *Anthene sylvanus*; butterflies; skippers; hairtails.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary power it is hereby ruled that the specific name *sylvanus* Esper, 1777, as published in the binomen *Papilio sylvanus*, is not invalid by reason of being a junior primary homonym of *Papilio sylvanus* Drury, 1773.
- (2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *sylvanus* Drury, 1773, as published in the binomen *Papilio sylvanus*;
 - (b) *sylvanus* Esper, 1777, as published in the binomen *Papilio sylvanus* (not invalid by the ruling in (1) above).

History of Case 3046

An application for the conservation of the specific name of *Papilio sylvanus* Esper, 1777 was received from Dr A.L. Devyatkin (*Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia*) on 13 May 1997. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 54: 231–235 (December 1997). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

A comment in support of the application from Dr P. Sigbert Wagener (*Bocholt, Germany*) was published in BZN 55: 105–106 (June 1998). Dr Wagener noted that Esper's description of *Papilio sylvanus* (p. 343) dated from 1779, but the specific name was available from its appearance on pl. 36, published in 1777 (cf. para. 2 of the application).

An opposing comment from Dr R. de Jong (*Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum, Leiden, The Netherlands*) & Dr O. Karsholt (*Zoologisk Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark*) was published in BZN 55: 169–171 (September 1998). A reply by the author of the application was published in BZN 56: 63–65 (March 1999).

Since the generic name *Ochlodes* Scudder, 1872 is masculine, the included species discussed in this case should be known as *O. sylvanus* and *O. venatus*.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 September 1999 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 54: 233. At the close of the voting period on 1 December 1999 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 14: Bock, Bouchet, Cocks, Dupuis, Eschmeyer, Heppell, Kerzhner, Kraus, Mahnert, Mawatari, Nielsen, Papp, Schuster, Song

Negative votes — 7: Brothers, Cogger, Macpherson, Minelli, Patterson, Savage and Štys.

No vote was received from Martins de Souza.

Lehtinen and Ride were on leave of absence.

Brothers commented: 'It is not obvious to me, from the information provided, that the use of the plenary power in this case will aid in promoting stability in the nomenclature'.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on an Official List by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

sylvanus, *Papilio*, Drury, 1773, *Illustrations of natural history; wherein are exhibited ... figures of exotic insects*, vol. 2, p. 5.

sylvanus, *Papilio*, Esper, 1777, *Die Schmetterlinge in Abbildungen nach der Natur mit Beschreibungen*, Theil 1 (Europäische Gattungen), pl. 36, suppl. 12, fig. 1.